

Message Text

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COME-00 EB-04 FRB-01 CIEP-01 STR-01 TRSE-00 LAB-01

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C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 8787

E.O. 11652C GDS

TAGS: PROR, EEC

SUBJECT: EC-NINE POLITICAL COOPERATION MEETING, NOVEMBER 11:
SUMMIT

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: AS ANTICIPATED, ON NOVEMBER 11 THE EC-NINE FOREIGN MINISTERS FAILED TO COMPLETE WORK ON THE AGENDA OR TO SET A FIRM DATE FOR THE EUROPEAN SUMMIT. THE FOREIGN MINISTERS ARE MEETING AS THE EC COUNCIL IN BRUSSELS TODAY, NOVEMBER 12. THEY WILL ALSO MEET IN PARIS ON NOVEMBER 18 AND IN BRUSSELS ON NOVEMBER 25 IN THE POLITICAL COOPERATION FRAMEWORK. ALL THE MINISTERS EXCEPT CALLAGHAN REPORTEDLY AGREED THAT THE SUMMIT SHOULD GIVE "POSITIVE CONSIDERATION"

TO THE DIRECT ELECTION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT. THE FRENCH APPARENTLY SUGGESTED THAT THE EC COMMISSION SHOULD ENJOY OBSERVER STATUS IN THE IEA BUT, AS EXPECTED, OPPOSED HAVING THE COMMUNITY AS SUCH ACCEDE. BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER VAN ELSLANDE TERMED THE FRENCH PROPOSAL A "POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION" UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

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THE MINISTERS HAD AN INCONCLUSIVE RUN-THROUGH ON MOST OTHER POINTS

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THE SUMMIT. DESPITE CONTINUED DOUBTS ABOUT HOW MUCH SUBSTANCE THERE WILL BE IN THE AGENDA, LOCAL OBSERVERS STILL BELIEVE THE SUMMIT WILL BE HELD. END SUMMARY.

2. THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS MET NOVEMBER 11 IN BRUSSELS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF POLITICAL COOPERATION. (AT FRENCH INSISTENCE, THE MEETING WAS HELD NOT ON "COMMUNITY SOIL" BUT IN THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE CENTER.) THE MINISTERS CONSIDERED AND ADOPTED A NUMBER OF TOPICS FOR POSSIBLE INCLUSION ON THE AGENDA OF THE PARIS SUMMIT. NO TOPIC WAS FIRMLY VETOED AT THE PRESENT STATE, AND THE MEMBER STATES WERE REPORTEDLY CAREFUL NOT TO MAKE INCLUSION OF SPECIFIC ITEMS A SINE QUA NON FOR HOLDING THE SUMMIT.

3. EUROPEAN COUNCILS. THE FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR "EUROPEAN COUNCILS" ATTENDED BY HEADS OF GOVERNMENT AND SERVICED BY A SMALL SECRETARIAT (SEE EC BRUSSELS 8321) WAS NOT DISCUSSED IN DEPTH. A SOURCE WHO WAS PRESENT TOLD US THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTERS CONSIDERED THIS ITEM "TOO POLITICAL" TO BE DEALT WITH AT THEIR LEVEL AND THAT IT WILL PROBABLY BE LEFT FOR DISCUSSION AT THE SUMMIT.

4. INTENSIFIED POLITICAL COOPERATION. THE MINISTERS ADOPTED AS AN AGENDA POINT THE QUESTION OF HOW TO INTENSIFY POLITICAL COOPERATION WITH A VIEW TOWARD EUROPEAN UNIFICATION AND THE ASSOCIATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT WITH THIS PROCESS.

5. THE STRENGTHENING OF THE ROLES OF THE COUNCIL, THE COMMISSION AND THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES. THE MINISTERS DISCUSSED AND ENTERED ON THE DRAFT AGENDA A POINT ON EASING THE RULE OF UNANIMITY ON NON-CRUCIAL QUESTIONS IN THE COUNCILS, STRENGTHENING THE COMMISSION, AND REINFORCING THE ROLE OF THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES BY HAVING THEM PARTICIPATE MORE FULLY IN PREPARATION OF NATIONAL POSITIONS ON COMMUNITY ISSUES.

6. GOING BEYOND THE EXISTING TREATIES. THE MINISTERS CONSIDERED THE EXTENSION OF COMMUNITY COMPETENCES INTO

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NEW AREAS AND POSSIBLE PROCEDURES FOR BRINGING THIS ABOUT. THEY HAVE FORMED A WORKING GROUP TO PREPARE A PAPER ON THE ADOPTION OF A COMMON EUROPEAN PASSPORT AND ANOTHER GROUP TO CONSIDER THE HARMONIZATION OF THE MEMBER GOVERNMENTS' REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO SUCH MATTERS AS WORK AND RESIDENCE PERMITS FOR FOREIGNERS.

7. DIRECT ELECTION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT. OUR

SOURCE INDICATED THAT ALL MEMBERS EXCEPT THE BRITISH HAVE NOW OPTED FOR THE PRINCIPLE OF SETTING A DATE FOR THE DIRECT ELECTION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT. (THE BRITISH REPORTEDLY SAID THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO DECIDE ON THIS POINT ONLY AFTER THE PLANNED REFERENDUM ON CONTINUED COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIP).

8. EUROPEAN UNION. THE MINISTERS APPROVED A PAPER FROM THE PARIS AD HOC GROUP STATING THAT THE PROCESS OF TRANSFORMING RELATIONS AS PRESCRIBED BY THE 1972 PARIS SUMMIT HAS BEGUN. DURING 1975, AND PRIOR TO THE 1975 SUMMIT, THE MINISTERS HAVE REPORTEDLY DECIDED TO EXAMINE PROCEDURES WHICH SHOULD LEAD TO EUROPEAN UNION -- THE CONCEPT AND CONTENT OF "EUROPEAN UNION" BEING NO CLEARER THAN HERETOFORE.

9. INFLATION. REPORTEDLY, THERE WAS CLEAR AGREEMENT ON THE NEED TO DISCUSS INFLATION AT THE SUMMIT-- PARTICULARLY IN THE CONTEXT OF UNEMPLOYMENT AND REGIONAL POLICY. THE BRUSSELS AD HOC GROUP PRESENTED A PAPER (CONTAINING A PROPOSED FIGURE OF 200 MILLION UNITS OF ACCOUNT PER YEAR FOR REGIONAL POLICY) WHICH IS TO BE THE SUBJECT OF FURTHER CONSIDERATION AND CLARIFICATION.

10. ENERGY. THE MINISTERS REPORTEDLY DISCUSSED THE QUESTION OF THE EC/IEA RELATIONSHIP.
COMMENT: IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THIS SUBJECT WILL BE TAKEN UP AGAIN AT TODAY'S FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL BUT A COMMUNITY POSITION WILL HAVE TO BE TAKEN PRIOR TO THE SUMMIT. END COMMENT. WE UNDERSTAND THAT FRANCE TOOK THE LINE THAT THE COMMISSION COULD BE PRESENT IN THE IEA AS AN OBSERVER BUT THAT THE COMMUNITY AS A GROUP NOT BE REPRESENTED. BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER VAN ELSLANDE
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CALLED THIS A "POSITIVE STEP," GIVEN THE FACT THAT ONLY EIGHT OF THE NINE EC COUNTRIES ARE JOINING THE IEA. HE FEELS THAT OBSERVER STATUS FOR THE COMMISSION WOULD HELP TO INSURE THE COMPATIBILITY OF THE NEW ORGANIZATION'S ACTIONS WITH THE EC'S COMMON ENERGY POLICY AS IT DEVELOPS.

11. FUTURE SUMMIT PREPARATIONS. THE MINISTERS DECIDED TO SCHEDULE A POLITICAL COOPERATION MEETING FOR BRUSSELS ON NOVEMBER 25, IN ADDITION TO THE MEETING PREVIOUSLY SLATED TO TAKE PLACE IN PARIS ON NOVEMBER 18.

12. COMMENT: SOME LOCAL PRESS REPORTS HAVE DRAMATIZED THE DIFFERENCES AMONG THE NINE ON VARIOUS ISSUES, ESPECIALLY REGIONAL POLICY. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE MEMBER

STATES ARE STILL SOME DISTANCE FROM FINAL AGREEMENT ON AN AGENDA NOT TO MENTION THE UNDERLYING COMPROMISES THAT WOULD MAKE A SUMMIT MEETING PRODUCTIVE. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT APPEARS THAT THE AGENDA AS IT IS NOW DEVELOPING WOULD AT LEAST GIVE EACH GOVERNMENT A CHANCE TO PLUG ITS OWN HOBBY HORSE. DESPITE THE CONCERNS WHICH SOME OF THE NINE HAVE EXPRESSED ABOUT THE PERILS OF AN UNPREPARED OR SUBSTANTIVELY-THIN SUMMIT, A GATHERING OF THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT IN DECEMBER NOW SEEMS INEVITABLE BARRING SOME COMPLETELY UNEXPECTED DEVELOPMENT.
END COMMENT. MYERSON

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